

You are public officials sworn to uphold the laws of the land and serve the public. You are not permitted to serve the moneyed interests of the "non-public" which includes private corporations and the corruption they may try to buy.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. It is dangerous because it is promoting its own interest in money and power by promoting the Bush administration and not even pretending to give "equal time" to the opposition. Further, it is a blatant, unpaid advertisement for the Bush administration, while Sinclair will not allow the same time or type of partisan broadcast for the opposition.

Sinclair uses the PUBLIC AIRWAVES FREE OF CHARGE! It is OBLIGATED BY LAW to serve the public interest. When large companies control the airwaves, they profit handsomely, and the public is treated no better than serfs, pawns in their games. This is NOT democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, we must see real people from our own communities and substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard, for heaven's sake. Thank you.